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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

January 14, 2021 | Vol. 42, No. 46 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Parents spearhead gift fundraising drive for Class of 2021

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – A group of parents have formed to provide spirit and moral to the senior class of 2021 during this unique year. One way they are providing spirit is by getting gifts for the senior class that they will be distributing soon.

Parent of a senior and School Committee member Wendy Rua she reached out with the idea on the Parents of Agawam High's Class of 2021 Facebook page, and a group formed together from there. The group is still accepting

volunteers and would welcome anyone new who is interested in helping. The group recently held a fundraiser on GoFundMe to help pay for a gift package for the seniors, the goal was 4,000 dollars and they reach the limit within days.

"I'd like to say a big thank you to the community for their help and support, they made this possible," Rua said. "When we reached our goal we had chills, we were so appreciative."

She mentioned that the group will be planning a distribution day to give the packages to the

students. This day will also be a small event for the seniors, the group is currently planning the

"When we reached out goal, we had chills. We were so appreciative"

– Wendy Rua

details but they wanted to make this like a spirit assembly. There are staff helping as well; including

someone from the yearbook to do pictures in some way, in order to commemorate the day.

Rua further explained that the community has shown a lot of support for this group and the previous year in May, the community held an "adopt a senior" event. Where people from the community left packages for the seniors, and celebrated them in a way. Rua wants to try to hold this event again this May and will call on the community for their help again, though she does not believe they will be fundraising again this year. They received 70

extra dollars on their fundraising page and there are donations coming in the mail, these funds will be used for extra expenses to celebrate the seniors in some way.

"It's our first event but there's going to be more and other fun activities, it won't require money just community support," Rua said. "We're thinking of other events already and we want to celebrate our seniors and show that we're proud of them."

She included that teachers are aware of the group and their efforts and are very supportive of

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New book details heroin addiction in western Mass.

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

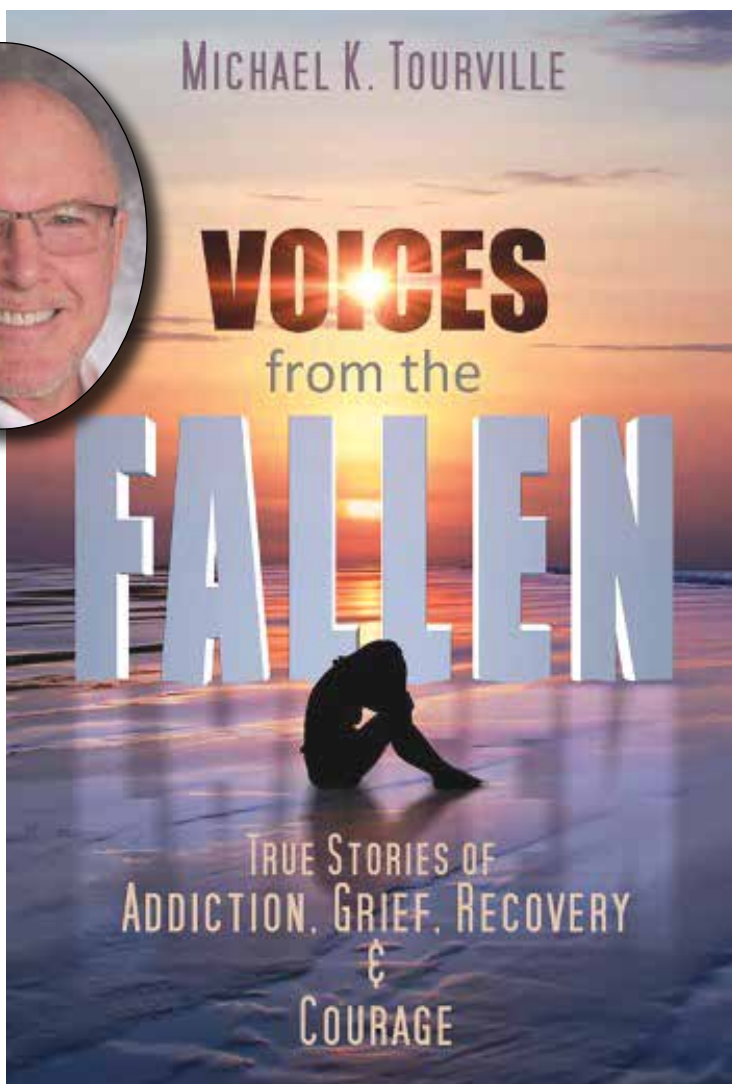
AGAWAM – During the COVID-19 pandemic, another grave epidemic has all but slipped from the public eye. Opioid addiction is a crisis, one that takes the lives of thousands of Massachusetts residents each year and has plagued the region for decades.

Mike Tourville, an Agawam author with Chicopee roots, recently completed "Voices from the Fallen," a book that chronicles the struggles of eight western Massachusetts residents battling substance abuse.

"These aren't case studies; case studies are dry and clinical. These are deeply personal," said Tourville, who's publication is available on Amazon both in print and digitally. "You almost feel like you're in the story yourself; you feel like you're part of it and you feel what they feel. That's what I wanted to do with this; make people feel like they're living it with them."

As it delves into the depths of addiction, "Voices from the Fallen," is based entirely in truth. The background of each real-life character differs from the next, Tourville's deliberate attempt to ensure that the book reaches a variety of targeted audiences.

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"Voices from the Fallen" a newly-released book by Agawam author Mike Tourville, offers a grave but necessary look at drug addiction in western Massachusetts. Inset: Mike Tourville's latest publication, "Voices from the Fallen," brings light to those who have fallen victim to the Opioid Epidemic in western Massachusetts. COURTESY PHOTOS

Mayor gets larger salary increase than expected

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Despite only agreeing to a \$10,000 raise originally, the Agawam City Council "narrowly" voted to accept a \$25,000 raise for the mayor.

For the fourth time since the mayor's last raise in 2008, a raise in the mayor's salary was brought forward by the city council. The mayor's salary is set by ordinance, and requires a two-thirds vote of the council to amend the ordinance.

The \$25,000 raise will make the mayor's salary \$110,000 per year and will in effect in 2022. Mayor William Sapelli is the sitting mayor, in the second year of his second two-year term. He has not declared publicly if he is running for re-election. He ran unopposed in 2019.

City Council President Christopher Johnson and Sapelli favored the raise in the mayor's salary for several reasons, including making it more in line with other mayor salaries in the surrounding area as well as making the job attractive to quality candidates in the future.

Johnson was the first mayor of the town and made just \$50,000 when the mayor form of government was instituted in 1990.

The mayor's salary was last increased to \$85,000 in 2008, and

three attempts to raise it failed. Since that time, salaries in more than 100 positions in town government and departments have exceeded the mayor's salary, something that also has seemed unfair to some in city government.

Additionally, Johnson referenced several other communities with mayor salaries above \$100,000 per year.

The ordinance changes originally sought a \$45,000 increase from \$85,000 to \$130,000, but there were some of the council who felt a \$45,000 increase was much too large, and it failed to gain the support of enough of the councilors. A two-thirds vote requires eight councilors to vote yes.

The difference in the voting came down to just two councilors, longtime Councilor George Bitzas and Councilor Gina Letellier.

Councilors Dino Mercadante and Rosemary Sandlin were both "no" votes from the beginning of the discussion. Citing the current COVID-19 conditions and state of the economy, they could not support a salary increase for the mayor.

During the first reading of the ordinance on Dec. 21, Bitzas was a third no vote and Letellier was absent from the meeting, leaving

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Eucharistic Adoration at St. John's

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesdays, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

Students participate in card drawing contest

Berkshire Power would like to send a big thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Holiday Card Contest. Each December, Berkshire Power organizes a holiday card drawing contest with Agawam's third grade art classes at Phelps School and Robinson Park School. The students have the opportunity to draw a holiday picture which will become Berkshire Power's holiday card for the season. Special congratulations go to Rylie Georgina, from Phelps School, the winner of this year's contest. We would also like to thank Ms. Stephanie Robinson, the art teacher at Phelps School, who helped to make it a success and earn Phelps School's Art Department a donation from Berkshire Power.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Lesser weighs in on rail report

PALMER – The following is a statement from Senator Eric P. Lesser (D-First Hampden and Hampshire) in regards to today's release of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation East-West Passenger Rail Study final report.

"After more than two years of effort, our state has completed a feasibility analysis of East-West Rail service between Pittsfield and Springfield to Boston. This report is an important step in moving this project from conception to reality. I want to thank the countless advocates, community organizations, business organizations, elected officials, and everyday citizens from every corner of our Commonwealth who wouldn't take no for an answer and demanded state-wide rail investment. The study comes at the right moment given President-Elect Biden's long history of infrastructure advocacy, and his

passion for train transportation in particular along with his nominee to be Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg.

As MassDOT acknowledges, the study remains incomplete. Most importantly, the ridership estimates are far too low and do not reflect comparable rail links around the country or the economic growth the rail line will spur. The study also does not take into account the significant environmental benefits from the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as tens of thousands of cars are taken off the road.

I look forward to working with MassDOT, our state legislative delegation, as well as our federal partners such as House Ways & Means Chairman Richard Neal, House Rules Committee Chairman Jim McGovern, Senator Warren, and Senator Markey to make statewide passenger rail service a reality."

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

BOOK ■ from page 1

"A reader may say, 'Seven of these stories don't jive with me, but one of them did,' and that's all that matters. That can be the difference," said Tourville. "There's a 53-year-old grandfather, who started using heroin. I've got a pregnant woman who is using heroin and a Hispanic guy from Holyoke. I've got a 19-year-old kid who lives in a very affluent neighborhood and everything in between."

Each story featured within "Voices from the Fallen" is written in the first person, allowing readers to emotionally connect with characters.

Tourville spent countless hours researching and communicating with families who have been affected by the Opioid Epidemic, including those who have lost loved ones to addiction.

Tourville, who has two teenage granddaughters, wrote the book in an attempt to educate youths both locally and nationally on the dangers posed by substance abuse. He walked a fine line as he compiled each story, hoping to create a product that is suitable for a high school classroom.

"I didn't want to whitewash it, but it couldn't be too graphic. It was really important to have this be accepted by high school students and be recommended by teachers and parents," said Tourville. "What's the point of having a book that helps to prevent drug use if parents don't want their high school aged children reading it? I had to write it with that in mind and didn't want to turn people off."

Thus far, "Voices from the Fallen" has received rave reviews from a number of sources. Actor Dean Cain remarked that it does a "fantastic job taking us into the mind of the addict."

Agawam Mayor William Sapelli was also left with a positive impression. He cited the importance of communicating difficult stories in an attempt to ensure the safety of the community.

"These hard-hitting experiences are extremely impactful and have the potential to save lives of those in a similar situation," said Sapelli. "The extraordinary courage of these individuals and family members to share their personal stories with the intent of assisting others goes above and beyond expectations. This book is essential reading for

those who are at risk or know anyone who may be."

While the book is finished, Tourville's mission is not complete; more stories are to come. Tourville expressed his desire to continue engaging audiences of all background to increase knowledge regarding the severity of drug addiction in western Massachusetts.

Common perceptions and stereotypes can be quite misleading, and Tourville hopes to demolish them. "Voices from the Fallen" serves to remind the public that an individual in need of assistance can be closer than one may think.

"The hard part of that is there's such a diverse group of people who are affected by substance abuse," said Tourville. "It's old people, it's young people, it's males and it's females; people of different races and levels of affluence. I'm hoping this book can inspire people to step up and do something because too often a lot of people don't know what to do."

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

MAYOR ■ from page 1

ing the council with only seven supporters for the raise. Amendments were proposed and Bitzas went along with supporting a \$10,000 increase to \$95,000.

The second reading of the ordinance was taken up on Monday, Jan. 11, and with Letellier present, councilor Robert Rossi made a motion to move the salary up to \$110,000, the \$25,000 increase. Bitzas changed his vote to no and Letellier voted in favor of the amended amount making it an 8-3 vote.

Neighbor West Springfield has a mayoral term of four years and a \$130,000 per year salary. The mayor of Springfield receives \$185,000 per year. Westfield's mayor receives \$100,000. Longmeadow, Amherst, South Hadley, East Longmeadow, and Southwick all utilize town administrators who answer to Select Boards. The salaries range from \$108,000 for Southwick to \$152,000 for Amherst.

Only Holyoke and Chicopee had comparable salaries to Agawam with \$85,000 per year.

FUNDRAISING ■ from page 1

them, including Principal Thomas Schnepf who has been supporting them and participating in their efforts. On distribution day there will be a special message from Schnepf, he had been involved in helping and the group is grateful.

Teachers will be helping as they miss their students and look forward to a chance to see their students, if only briefly. The event will be drive through for the students and the group is trying to be creative as possible, knowing that there are restrictions in place. Rua mentioned that they're planning to have the event in two weeks or so but there's no specific date yet due to shipping delays, and the restrictions on gatherings.

"I'm hoping that if we wait a little longer it might go in our favor, and the guidelines will change," Rua said.

She said Gov. Charlie Baker gave restrictions to public gatherings through Jan. 24 and though they are fairly strict, she hopes that the restrictions will lessen and they can hold the event then. The groups highest concern is safety for the event and students.

The gift will include an assembled bag with a t-shirt, mug, and other small items like bubbles and bouncy balls with notes attached for to boost their spirits. The group members and staff will be helping to assemble the bags and are excited to hold something to recognize and celebrate the seniors. Rua explained that this is a chance for parents and staff to say how proud they are of the class of 2021, who have had a unique junior and senior year.

The last time the class had a spirit assembly was their sophomore year, and they didn't know that the last time they would see each other as a whole class would be in their junior year. The parent group is trying to celebrate the seniors as much as they can during these times, and show that the class has persevered and should be congratulated on that. Rua explained that she's working with Schnepf and the date for distribution day will be further discussed and planned. She and the group of parents give thanks to the high school staff and the community for all their help in making this and other events possible for the graduating class of 2021.

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Adult winter challenge leads library offerings

AGAWAM – Starting on Jan. 19, adults will be able to participate in a Winter Reading Challenge. Similar to our summer Beanstack challenge, adult readers can read to earn raffle tickets for some library swag. This challenge is called “Ten to Try Winter Reading Challenge” and will run Jan. 19 to Feb. 20. It challenges readers to try titles in ten different categories. Each category earns one raffle ticket and those that complete all ten categories will receive small prizes. Our Winter Challenge can be found on the Adult section of our website: <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/adults/>

January’s Adult Grab & Go Craft Bag will include materials to create Tea-light Snowpeople and some winter themed coloring pages. Celebrate the Danish lifestyle called hygge—roughly translated means “a warm atmosphere and enjoying good things in life with good people.” Online registration for the craft opened on Jan. 1, please visit our online calendar to register or call the library. Supplies are limited, so only serious inquiries, please.

Take time to slow down and enjoy this winter. We all deserve a fresh start in this new year. The library continues to provide services six days a week. We are open for appointments on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and Grab & Go Services are available Monday to Saturday. As always, please call the library with any and all inquiries: 413-789-1550 or visit our website: www.agawamlibrary.org.

Students shifted to remote learning after holiday spike

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam schools reverted to remote learning on Monday Jan. 4, after a spike in cases after the holiday season. Students have remained remote since and have not been informed when in-person learning will resume.

Superintendent of Schools Shelia Hoffman explained that on Friday Jan. 1 there were nine active cases in hybrid learning, this number jumped to 20 on Sunday Jan. 3 causing Hoffman to make the decision to switch to remote. Hoffman was officially appointed as the Superintendent in Dec. for her work during the pandemic and the schooling choices made while dealing with the effects of COVID-19.

Though the School Committee came up with a rule of giving 48 hours notice when the learning style would change, Hoffman said she received their accurate and active information shortly before 3 p.m. on Jan. 3 when they sent out the message information parents and staff. Hoffman communicates with the public health nurse Sherry Petrucci often if not every day to compare care numbers and information, they are calculating the cases that effect the schools district and are trying to be as accurate and safe as possible.

The town nurse will gather information by midday and by age groups, then the school looks up the names given. This process involves work from both sides and

Applause series continues with recorded concert



The Agawam Cultural Council’s popular Applause Series takes on a Caribbean vibe on Friday, Feb. 5 when the Caribbean island-style sounds of the White-Eyed Lizard Band will be broadcast on the Towns of Agawam’s and Southwick’s public access channels and streamed at 7 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

AGAWAM – The 17th season of the Agawam Cultural Council’s popular Applause Series continues virtually on Friday, Feb. 5, with the steel drum/Calypso/Reggae/island-style sounds of White-Eyed Lizard Band. The performance was previously recorded at the Darcy B. Davis Jr. Bandshell at Agawam’s School Street Park and will be presented on the Town of Agawam’s public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7 p.m. and streamed from the “Watch” button on www.agawammedia.tv for those residing outside of Agawam. This performance is also being shown on the Town of Southwick’s TV15 at 7 p.m. and streamed from the “Watch Channel 15” button on www.southwickma.org/channel-15-public-access.

Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email r.kadis@comcast.net for a link for the performance.

This group has performed throughout the region since its founding in 2003. Lead vocalist and drum set player Luke Rodney is originally from Trinidad, the birthplace of the Steel Pan. Kurt Ginter performs on bass, keyboard, and background vocals. On steel pan is Aaron Cote, an internationally acclaimed steel pan composer. You will not want to miss this enjoyable display of musicianship—mark your calendar now.

Production sponsor for White-Eyed Lizard Band is Easthampton Savings Bank. The Agawam Cultural Council also thanks the Agawam Special Police, Elaine Carlson, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, OMG, Inc., and the Southwick Cultural Council for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally

accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40 percent of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly “socially distanced” donation to support efforts to “Give Back to the Community” by visiting the ACC web site www.agawamcc.org and clicking on the green “Donate” button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

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Friends of Agawam Library announce annual meeting

AGAWAM – The Friends of the Agawam Public Library wishes to announce that it will be holding its annual meeting of members on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021 at 11 a.m. in the main reading room of the Agawam Public Library. Due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of in person attendees is limited to 10 people. This meeting is open to the public by registration and attendance via Zoom. The election of board members will be held at this meeting. All members who have paid their 2021 dues will be eligible to vote.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the annual Board of Directors meeting will be

held to elect officers for the year. Again, due to restrictions, this meeting is open to the public by registration and attendance via Zoom. Voting at this meeting is limited to members of the Board of Directors.

Anyone interested in joining the Friends organization may pay his or her dues by mail before the meeting to become eligible to vote. Payments can be mailed to: Friends of the Agawam Public Library, PO BOX 478 Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0478. Please visit the Agawam Public Library’s website calendar to register for the event. Registered participants will be sent the Zoom meeting link.

Opinion

Fun finding flowers

One might say I have a soft spot for heirloom flowers. Learning about these antiques as a twenty-something when I started working at Old Sturbridge Village likely set the stage for what I dub a long-term love affair. Just today I placed orders for seeds of my favorites, among the many are a number of foxglove and pink species. Read on to learn about the cream of the crop of cottage garden favorites.

There has always been a secretive side to foxgloves, due in part to an unusual name and the potent medicine that is obtained from the plant. Legend has it that foxglove was derived from “folk’s glove”, folks referring to the elves and fairies of country lore. Another legend tells that the fox needed magical gloves to steal a chicken or two. A less fanciful explanation traces glove to gleow in Old English; a gleow was an ancient musical instrument made of bells suspended from a curved frame. I think the description fits the look pretty accurately! The following species I grow with success; please use caution when planting around children due to poisonous properties.

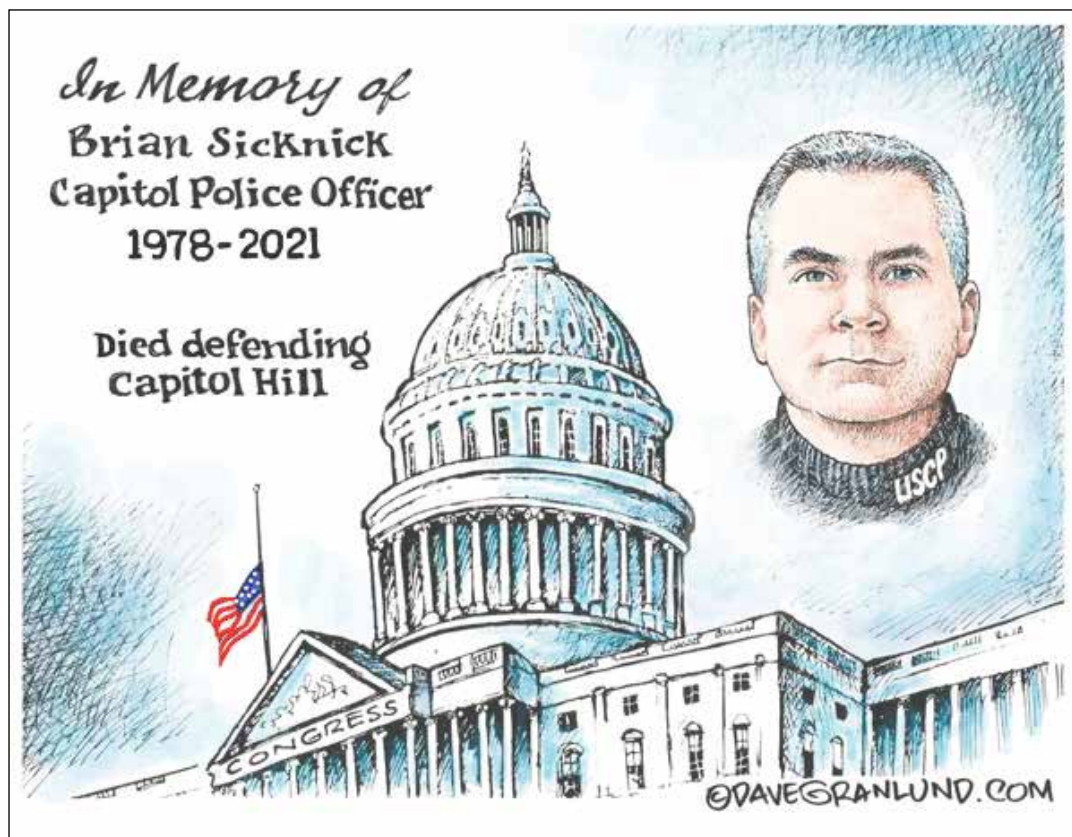
Native to Western Europe, the common foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) has had a place in North American gardens since its introduction during colonial times. Tall purple spikes grace rise from basal foliage and make a strong statement in the June garden in sun or part shade, fertile ground. Although biennial, this species will self-seed prolifically. Try ‘alba’ for a all white strain.

There are other, more subtle species of foxglove worthy of a home in your garden. One of my top picks is the Rusty Foxglove (*Digitalis ferruginea*). Small flowers the color of liquid gold bloom up three to six-foot stems late in the summer. Although touted as being a biennial this species has happily returned for several years in my part shade, moisture retentive location. The yellow foxglove (*D. grandiflora*) is a reliable perennial, shorter than most, only 24 to 30 inches tall and blooming a soft yellow in early June. This species also prefers part shade and adequate moisture. The Grecian foxglove (*D. lanata*), a true biennial, has grayish flowers, blooming in July up three-foot stems. The straw foxglove (*D. lutea*) begins relatively short in stature but after three or four years can get quite tall at four feet. Its creamy flowers are a mere ¾ inches and are quite unusual, but lovely, and return year after year.

Now on to the pinks. Everyone knows what a florist carnation smells like, flowery with a hint of cloves. Imagine it, but reduce the scale of the flower size and loosen the head a bit and you will be on to Sweet William, (*Dianthus barbatus*). Prized by florists for its clustered, richly scented three-inch flower heads, seen in white, magenta, salmon and pretty bicolors. Technically a biennial, Sweet William will occasionally return for a third or fourth year of bloom but will likely be spindly at best.

Dianthus gratianopolitanus is a mouthful for a plant better known as Cheddar Pink. Settle for a few quarter-sized fragrant pink blooms in year one, but by mid-June of the second year of the plant, it will be at least a foot to 15 inches wide by eight inches tall with flowers too numerous to count. Each individual floret is composed of five flat petals that get a bit deeper in tone near the center and tatter somewhat at the edge. Curly stamens popping up in the middle add to the interest.

Pheasant-Eye or Cottage Pink, (*Dianthus plumarius*), is less behaved than its



cousin. The silver foliage has a tendency bend and grow in funny, rambling angles, making it a great candidate for draping over the edge of a raised border or rock wall. The flowers are fragrant still, but less prolific than those of Cheddar Pink. Similar in appearance too, except that they have an even more pronounced, dark eye against white, light pink and deep pink petals- giving it the name Pheasant-Eye!

The last pretty pink I’ll mention today is Fringed or Superb Pink (*Dianthus superbus*). It differs from Clove and Pheasant Eye in that its foliage is green and less spiky, more grass-like. And while the others top off under a foot, Fringed Pink grows two feet tall or taller. Light pink or purple flowers are deeply fringed, giving them a very delicate appearance that is best admired (and sniffed!) up close.

Many of these *Dianthus* and *Digitalis* species are available by seed through JL Hudson, Seedsman (www.jlhudsonseeds.net) and Richters (www.richters.com). Plants are easy to grow, best started indoors in late February. Pinks prefer to sprout off-heat, but foxgloves benefit from heating cables. Light will aid in germination for both types; simply press the seed into the soil surface and do not cover.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

Letter to the Editor

Thank you for a successful 2020

Dear Editor:

As we close out 2020, the GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club continues to be grateful to the community for their support. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to those who helped us this year.

Those who made monetary donations include: Westfield Bank, Abbe McLane/Attorney at Law, Agawam Medical Supply/Dean Saracino, Berkshire Power, Budget Cabinet Sales, E.Cecchi Farms, Clinical Research Management Group (CRMG)/Steve Cincotta, Dr. Tami Nelson/Hampden County Chiropractic, Java Stop/Craig and Heidi Jurasz, Liberty Package Store, Travelers Insurance matching gift, and Patty Lloyd. We also thank Big Y (Big Y Blooms Program) and EB’s (Dine out Give Back) for their work with us on Fundraisers.

We especially want to thank the Agawam Cultural Council for awarding us a grant that helped enable us to invite Judith Black in her presentation as Lucy Stone. Special thanks also to Les Tingley, Agawam Media Specialist, for his videotaping of this very special program in July and for videotaping the beautifully decorated homes for our Fabulous Holiday Decorating Contest in December.

For 63 years, AJWC has been committed to the betterment of our community through special projects supporting the GFWC Special and Community Service Programs: domestic and sexual violence and awareness, advocates for children, education and libraries, arts and culture, environment, health and wellness, and civic involvement and outreach.

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club is especially proud of its continued donations even in times of uncertainly and restrictions. In 2020 The AJWC donated \$3,675.00 including \$3,000.00 in scholarship monies to graduating seniors. In 2020 the AJWC made in-kind donations worth \$8,871.00 including the making 1,870 face masks and the purchase of grocery gift cards and Old Navy gift cards worth \$2,900 through their Holiday Baskets program.

We could not have done it without you!

This group of thoughtful caring women are always looking for new members. Check us out on social media.

Sincerely,
Kathy Mounemneh and Donna Shibley, AJWC Co-Presidents

Free COVID-19 testing at HCC extended until March 31

HOLYOKE — Free “Stop the Spread” COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until March 31, 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college’s main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday,

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first come, first serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>

3

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail aan@turley.com.

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

The *Agawam Advertiser News* (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

INTERIM EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
aan@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com
Peter Spotts
peterspotts@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
John Baskin
jbaskin@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA



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Theater professor Pat Sandoval leads an acting class at Holyoke Community College in 2019. SUBMITTED PHOTO

HCC students to perform virtual reading of play celebrating women’s suffrage

HOLYOKE — Students from Holyoke Community College this week will perform a virtual staged reading of *Failure is Impossible*, a play celebrating women’s suffrage.

The free performance, directed by HCC theater professor Pat Sandoval and history professor Diane Beers, will be hosted on Zoom on Thursday, Jan. 14, starting at 6:30 p.m. in conjunction with Holyoke’s Wistariahurst Museum.

First performed in 1995 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of women’s suffrage, the play by Rosemary Knower dramatizes the debate leading up to passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

Knower’s script draws upon archival sources, including the Congressional Record, petitions to Congress, newspapers, personal letters, diaries, and memoirs. The cast of characters include Abigail Adams, Sarah Grimke, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Clara Barton, and Frederick Douglass among others.

The play was originally scheduled to be performed live on the stage of HCC Leslie Phillips Theater in March 2020 during Women’s History Month, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. But that show was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I think it’s even more significant now that we’re doing this piece,” Sandoval said. “The play is not a work of fiction. It is filled with historical facts, so it’s educational and important and timely. Everybody should know the struggles of the suffragettes. We

take it for granted, but, as we know by recent headlines, democracy and rights are not just handed to us.”

The performers are students from an HCC Learning Community class taught jointly by Sandoval and Beers titled “She Persisted,” which combines women’s history and acting.

The title adopts the now-familiar expression used in 2017 by U.S. Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell in defending the Senate’s vote to silence Senator Elizabeth Warren’s objections to the confirmation of Jeff Sessions as U.S. Attorney General.

“We chose ‘She Persisted’ because all the women we study show this determination to keep on persisting and it’s particularly true of the suffragettes,” Sandoval said. “It’s only been 100 years since we’ve had the right to vote, and the country’s been around since 1776, so women have been struggling since the beginning for the right to vote.”

Sandoval and Beers will be teaching the class again this spring.

The HCC cast includes Alex Santiago of Holyoke, Cassi Broga of Chicopee, Diamond Smith of Easthampton, Hannah Labreche of Holyoke, Nathan Rodriguez of Holyoke and Roxy Murphy of Easthampton.

To see the show, attendants must register in advance through a link on the Wistariahurst Museum website: wistariahurst.org/events

The program is funded by a Community Development Block Grant. Additional support has been provided through NEH CARES Act funding granted by Mass Humanities.

Movement program offered for area youth

WESTFIELD – The YMCA of Greater Westfield, in collaboration with Baystate Health, is offering the MIGHTY (Moving, Improving, and Gaining Health Together at the YMCA) program; Now enrolling children between the ages of 8 and 10. Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

MIGHTY, funded by a grant from Kohl’s Cares, is an evidence-based, multi-component pediatric weight management program for children with a body mass index above the 95th percentile. This free program meets twice per month, over a six-month period. During each two-hour session, children and their families engage with exercise specialists, nutritionists and behavioral health workers in classroom instruction and group exercise sessions.

To be eligible for the MIGHTY Program, participants must be at or above the 95th percentile for body mass index (BMI), provide a medical clearance form signed by their health care provider and attend a registration session, Thursday, Feb. 4 at 4 p.m. with the child at the YMCA of Greater Westfield. Registration is now open.

Space is limited while adhering to the social distancing guideline. To register, contact YMCA of Greater Westfield, Cindy Agan, Health & Wellness Director, 413-568-8631, cagan@westfieldymca.org.

The YMCA of Greater Westfield is committed to be the leader in improving the quality of life for members of our community by providing cause-driven programs for individuals and families focusing on youth development, on healthy living and on social responsibility.

Registration date changed for night school

AGAWAM – In case of an increase of COVID cases after the holiday break and in an abundance of precaution, the Agawam Night School registration dates and calendar have changed.

Registration for Night school is now Tuesday, March 16 and Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

If the number of COVID cases have significantly rescinded and if it is approved by the Agawam Health Department and our Superintendent, Mrs. Sheila Hoffman,

our Adult Education Program will not be remote. The first day of classes would be March 23, 2021 and the last class would be June 3, 2021. Classes will run on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

If we are not able to have classes at high school and it is scheduled as remote the start and end date will remain the same. Remote classes are self-driven. Students will be required to complete 30 hours and pass the course with a 65 or better.

Online Scholarship and Fellowship information meetings

WESTFIELD – The Horace Smith Fund, now in its 121st year, has scholarship and fellowship money available for graduates of Hampden County public and private high schools. Two online information meetings are scheduled for Monday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. for parents and students. To secure an invitation to attend, write info@HoraceSmithFund.org. Each session is about 40 minutes long and will include a question-and-answer period.

Scholarships awards of \$12,000 are distributed as \$3,000 annually and renewable each year until graduation. Fellowship awards of \$15,000 are distributed as \$5,000 annually and renewable for two additional years. Students must maintain at least a B average in college.

Recipients are selected on a variety of criteria, including financial need, cumulative graduating GPA, extra-curricular activities, recommendations, and college entrance exam scores, if applicable. Of great importance is a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance. Additionally, fellowship applicants must also submit their GRE or degree-specific test scores, if applicable. All recipients must be full-time students and

residents of Hampden County.

Last year, \$297,000 was awarded to 24 individuals. Scholarships were given to 18 graduating seniors from Hampden County high schools. Three scholarships were also awarded to current college students to assist them in completing their undergraduate degrees. Three fellowships were given to college graduates pursuing graduate degrees, who had graduated from Hampden County high schools.

The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace Smith, co-founder of Smith & Wesson, located in Springfield. The scholarships and fellowships are named for Walter S. Barr, a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950.

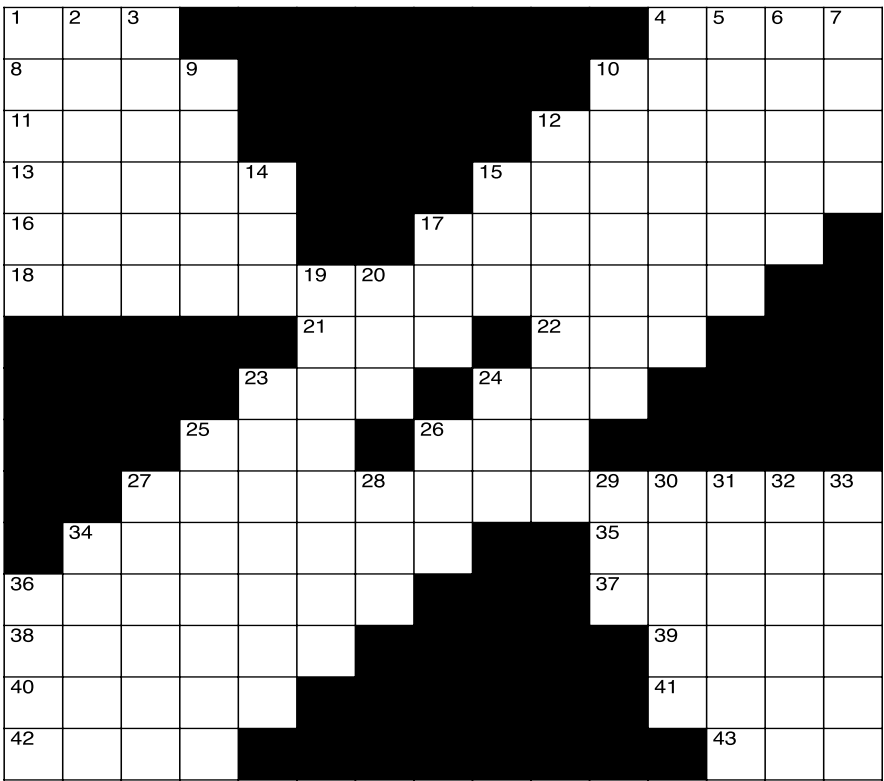
Completed applications must be received either electronically or by mail to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Suite 2K, Westfield, MA 01085 no later than March 15, 2021. Applications are available online at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning the office at (413) 739-4222.

ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 926 calls for service from Jan. 4 to Jan. 10 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Saturday, Jan. 9

Julian Pacheco Costas, 19, of 252 Bay St. Springfield, was arrested at 1:33 a.m. on a multitude of charges, including failure to stop for a police officer, attaching plates to a motor vehicle illegally, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, receiving stolen property, operating under the influence of liquor, resisting arrest, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.



- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Adequate yearly progress (abbr.)
 - 4. Silicon Valley’s specialty
 - 8. Gather a harvest
 - 10. Famed mathematician
 - 11. No (slang)
 - 12. Students use one
 - 13. Type of molecule
 - 15. Play make-believe
 - 16. Large barrel-like containers
 - 17. Touching
 - 18. Treats allergies
 - 21. Calendar month
 - 22. Single
 - 23. Cease to live
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Used in treating bruises
 - 2. One who cultivates a small estate
 - 3. One who supports the Pope
 - 4. Annuity
 - 5. Geological period
 - 6. Grab onto tightly
 - 7. Kept
 - 9. Chinese city
 - 10. The most direct route
 - 12. Type of tooth
 - 14. ___ kosh, near Lake Winnebago
 - 15. Popular veggie
 - 17. Supervises interstate commerce
 - 19. Foolish behaviors
 - 20. Witness
 - 23. Gives
 - 24. Expression of creative skill
 - 25. A way to prop up
 - 26. Midway between northeast and east
 - 27. Winter melon
 - 28. Supernatural power
 - 29. Target
 - 30. Threes
 - 31. A type of poetic verse
 - 32. They make some people cry
 - 33. Kindest
 - 34. Forman and Ventimiglia are two
 - 36. A way to liquefy

Schools & Youth

Agawam High School Counseling Bulletin

Reminders:

Members of the Class of 2021 should familiarize themselves with the information that has been posted to the Post-Secondary Planning section under the Counseling tab of the High School webpage. Most recently, the Senior College Application Packet was added, which is a great resource for students interested in applying to two- and four-year colleges. https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/as-set/uploaded_file/937652/Senior_Application_Packet_2020-2021.pdf

The COVID-19 pandemic has created uncertainty among students and families about nearly all aspects of the college admission process, including the role of standardized testing. We were scheduled to host testing in November, but did not feel it was prudent to have students from “red” area and states in our building. We looked into hosting school day testing for just Agawam students, but the next available date is in March. Due to the cancellation of SAT and ACT testing dates, more than 1,630 US colleges and universities announced they are moving to a test-optional policy, and more will surely follow. By going test-optional, institutions are making a definitive statement that they will not need test scores to make admission decisions this year. Despite the change in policies, high school students and their parents are asking, “Does test optional really mean test optional?” The answer, simply put, is: YES.

Please keep in mind that some colleges may require SAT or ACT scores for certain majors and/or the awarding of merit money. We encourage you to contact any schools that are of interest to you (website, email, or phone) to confirm that test scores are not required for your intended major and/or the awarding of merit money.

All students should be checking their Naviance accounts on a regular basis. There is so much valuable information for all students, whether you're headed directly into the work force, the military, or college upon graduation from AHS. If you can't access your account, please be in touch with your School Counselor.

Open Houses/Informational Sessions/Discovery Days:

Westfield State University's Banacos Academic Center is hosting hour-long Zoom sessions to address questions that college bound students with learning differences may have. Disability/Accessibility Services staff from the other Massachusetts Universities and a Westfield State Admissions representative will be present. Sessions are capped at 50 sign ups. Students may RSVP at: secure.blueoctane.net/forms/6SCHNXYC2D8H

The sessions will occur at the following times:
Thursday, Jan. 14 at noon
Friday, Jan. 15 at 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 19 at noon and 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 21 at noon and 4:00 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 25 at noon
Wednesday Jan 27 at 4:00 p.m.

MASSHIRE will be hosting a series of webinars surrounding Exploring Professions in Healthcare. The sessions will be held January 27th (12:00 – 1:30), February 10th (12:00 – 1:30) and February 24th (12:00 – 1:30). Please contact Phylis Gedeon at pgedeon@masshirespringfield.org or 413.858.2818.

Whether you've already started your college search or have no idea where to begin, BigFuture Days will give you a chance to get information about multiple colleges from college admissions officers and current college students. The program for the Northeast will be held on Sunday, March 7. Please visit cb.org/bigfuturedays to register and learn more!

Colleges and universities will be hosting information and recruitment events, in a variety of formats, in the next couple of months. Check the colleges' websites for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event. While campus visits may look and feel different during this time, it is important to take advantage of these programs to learn as much as you can about the schools that are of interest to you.

The Horace Smith Fund will be hosting two online information meetings for students are parents regarding the Walter S. Barr Scholarships and the William R. Rooney Award. Information on these awards is listed in the Scholarship section below. These will be held on Monday, January 11 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, Jan-

uary 24 at 2:00 PM. To reserve a space, interested people must email info@HoraceSmithFund.org. A link for pre-registration will be sent.

Scholarship Information:

See your counselor or visit the websites below for more information or an application.

Exceptional student leaders are invited to apply for the 2021 GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program. In honor of the legacy and character of President Ronald Reagan, this program annually rewards up to 20 college-bound students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship with \$10,000 renewable scholarships (up to \$40,000). More information is available at reaganfoundation.org. Applications will be accepted January 5, 2021.

The 2020 Profile in Courage Essay will be offering a first place prize of \$10,000, a second place prize of \$3,000, and \$1,000 for five finalists. The maximum word count is 1,000 with a minimum of 700, not including citations and bibliographies. The deadline is January 15, 2021. More information is available at jfklibrary.org/essaycontest

Berkshire Bank's NeXt Gen Scholarship Program is now accepting applications for the 2020-2021 cycle. Through the program, 40 students will receive a \$2500 scholarship. These will be awarded to students who have exemplified community service through their volunteer efforts, have been successful academically, and have financial need. The application deadline is January 31, 2021. Learn more at berkshirebank.com/scholarships

The Beverly J. Malone Ladizki and David A. Ladizki Scholarship is available for graduating high school seniors residing in Agawam with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Applicants must be scheduled to be a full-time student at a non-profit college/university, community college, or vocational school after graduation. The awards range from \$1,000-\$3,000. To apply, please visit hfp.org/scholarships, scroll to select the type of college you will attend, click on “Individual Scholarship Funds at HFPG”, and then click on the link to access the Foundation's online portal. Applications must be submitted by February 1, 2021.

The Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship application is now available! This foundation provides four-year scholarships of \$30,000 and extensive support services, including guidance and internship placement, to highly motivated African American students. The application closes at 5 PM on February 1, 2021. Learn more at jackierobinson.org

Big Y Scholarship applications will be accepted through February 1, 2021. The program awards over 300 scholarships each year, totaling more than \$250,000. All Big Y Scholarships recognize academic merit and achievement. Applications are available only online at bigy.com.

Tenaska, founded in 1987, is a privately held energy company committed to being good neighbors in the communities where its plants are located. To express that commitment, scholarships are offered through the high schools located in the counties with plant operations (Berkshire Power Company in our area). Applicants must be a 2021 graduating high school senior who plan to attend a two- or four-year post-secondary education program at an accredited institution. The scholarship amount is \$1500, and applications, which are available at Tenaska.com/scholarship-form, are due no later than February 12, 2021.

The Yawkey Scholars Program is designed to make college affordable for talented and motivated students from Massachusetts. It provides a four-year renewable tuition scholarship to a Massachusetts private college to help students achieve academically and go on to be successful and highly productive members of our community. Students must meet specific financial guidelines to be eligible. Applications, which are due by 5 PM on February 12, 2021, are available at yawkeyfoundation.org/how-we-give/yawkey-scholars-program.

The William R. Rooney Scholarship is available to residents of Hampden County who are members of the senior class and have been on an IEP or 504 Plan for two years. Please visit horacesmithfund.org for an application. The application deadline is March 15, 2021.

The Walter S. Barr Scholarship is available to residents to Hampden County who are members of the senior class at their local public or private secondary schools. Awards will be made on

the basis of all available information, including school records, recommendations and examination scores. Awards will be continued through the four year course if the student's record and need justify such continuance. Consideration will be given to both the merit and financial need of the applicant. Please see horacesmithfund.org for details. The application deadline is March 15, 2021.

The Professional Women in Construction (PWC) – CT Chapter is pleased to offer multiple scholarships to students (male or female) enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degree programs in Construction, Construction Management, Interior Design, Architecture, Landscape Design, or Civil, Mechanical, Structural, and Electrical Engineering. The students must be enrolled full-time for the complete year. The application is available at pwcusa.org/chapters/about-connecticut/connecticut-scholarship/ and is due no later than March 17, 2021

Applications are now available for the Agawam Democratic Town Committee Award. This award is available to seniors who are continuing their education. The student or one parent must be a registered Democrat. Applications are available in Naviance and are due by April 1, 2021.

The Asian Pacific Community Fund (APCF) has multiple scholarship awards to give to eligible high school seniors. The application on the website is not yet open, but is expected to go live on November 20. Applications are due no later than Friday, April 2, 2021. More information is available at apcf.org/scholarships

The R. Kenneth Grady Memorial Scholarship is open to any Agawam High School Senior residing in Agawam who are planning to attend college with a major in the field of Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement or any other four year degree. All applications must be completed and submitted no later than April 15, 2021. The scholarship and award (one to a female, one to a male) will be based on a combination of the applicant's character, grade point average, class rank, and information based on the scholarship application. Applications are available in Naviance.

The American College Foundation (ACF) is offering a Visionary Scholarship, with multiple winners selected to each receive between \$1,000 and \$5,000. The application process is quick and easy and financial need is not considered. All may apply. The application is available at AmericanCollegeFoundation.org and the deadline is May 1, 2021.

The Disabled American Veterans Chapter 11, Ted Hamel Memorial Scholarship application is now available. Applicants must be a current DAV member or related to a current DAV members, such as son, daughter, grandchild, great-grandchild, nephew or niece. You must also be a high school senior or DAV member accepted to a college, trade, vocational, or technical school. You will need to have your sponsor's name, signature, and DAV membership number. Applicants from previous years may apply each year as they proceed through their education. Applications are available in Naviance and are due by May 1, 2021.

The Wisegeek Entrepreneurship Matters Scholarship is a \$500 scholarship open to students with an entrepreneurial spirit. While not required, the program will look for candidates with a track record of overcoming challenges and a penchant for continuous growth. Applications can be completed in less than two minutes and are due by May 1, 2021.

wise-geek.com/entrepreneurship-matters-scholarship.htm

The creators of the “Student Award Search Aid” website are offering the B. Davis Scholarship for 2021. Please visit studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm to read about the program and to apply for the scholarship. The amount of the award is \$1,000 and the deadline is May 24, 2021.

Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants are pleased to be able to continue with their scholarship program for the 15th year. This scholarship will be awarding up to \$1,000 to the winner(s) each year. Scholarship Deadline is June 12, 2021. Students will submit an essay on the topic that appears at abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm

Applications for the WiseGeek LGBTQ+ Scholarship are now available. Students who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ Awareness community can apply for this \$500 scholarship (deadline of July 1, 2021) at wisegeek.com/lgbtq-awareness-scholarship.htm

Luke named to Dean's List

CASTLETON, VT – Jaden Luke of Feeding Hills, MA was recently named to the Castleton University Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2020-21 academic year.

To qualify for this academic honor, students must maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 3.5.

Curry College announces fall Dean's List students

MILTON – Curry College congratulates roughly 1,000 students who were named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List. To earn a place on the list, full-time undergraduate students - those who carry 12 or more graded credits per semester - must earn a 3.3 grade-point-average (GPA) or higher.

Allie Wysocki and Stephanie Herring, both of Agawam, achieved Dean's List status in Fall 2020.

Student makes Dean's List

WEST HAVEN, Conn. – Emily R. Smidt of Feeding Hills, MA, a student in the Pompea College of Business at the University of New Haven, has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester.

NAMI annual meeting set for Jan. 17

AGAWAM – The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 17. This will be a virtual event and registration is required. Only members will be eligible to vote, please contact our office for an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be received in our office by Jan. 19. For more information and to register go to namiwm.org and click on the registration link. A Zoom link will be provided (emailed) to those who are registered. NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.

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www.turley.com

New course at STCC prepares students for before and after-school care



A new course at STCC will help teach students about out-of-school care. SUBMITTED PHOTO

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College this spring will offer a course that addresses a growing need: how to educate and care for children when school isn't happening.

Conor J. Bevan, the director of program development for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke, will teach the new class, called Out of School Time.

While the need to enrich and provide care for children when they're not in school has been growing over the past several years, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the pace and demand for educators, Bevan said.

"What we're seeing now in our field is really fascinating," Bevan said. "You have virtual or remote public school education. You have a growing need for childcare, and you have the vast majority of parents unable to stay at home with their child. It creates a tremendous burden on them."

Often, parents face the difficult choice of working or staying at home to support their child. In many cases, it's an "impossible choice" because parents cannot afford not to work, Bevan said.

Bevan said organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club offer "out of school time" childcare services and programs and face a growing demand for trained educators. The STCC course, which is designed to help meet the demand, is an elective that is part of the Early Childhood Education Transfer degree program, but is open to anyone.

Bevan said the course focuses on supervision, safety, program quality and operations.

"We're trying to teach students to become youth development professionals, and give them an understanding that this is a critical time in a child's life," Bevan said. "We serve as a primary link between academic support, enrichment activities, physical health and nutrition, especially now more so than ever. With schools being remote, our industry has operated almost as a pseudo school."

Richard Greco, dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies at

STCC, said the pandemic has highlighted the need to find ways to support children when school is not in session.

"We know that parents have a need to find a place for their kids to go when they're working," Greco said. "Our goal was to offer a course with somebody who has firsthand experience in this field to give STCC students a great education on how to develop curriculums, make sure students are safe and have nutritious food in front of them."

Greco thought Bevan would be an ideal instructor for the class after reading a profile of him in a local media outlet. Bevan, who grew up in Holyoke, spent time as a child at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke as well as the Greater Holyoke YMCA. He gained an appreciation of programs and services designed to enrich the lives of young people when they weren't in school.

"I'm a proud product of the out-of-school-time industry," Bevan said. "I really leaned on my lessons that I learned in the out-of-school-time world to propel my career professionally as well as personally."

The spring semester at STCC starts Jan. 25.

To enroll in the class or apply to be a student at STCC, visit stcc.edu/apply or call Admissions at (413) 755-4812. For questions about the Out of School Time class, email Aimee Dalenta: adalenta@stcc.edu, or Jennifer Wallace-Johnson: jwjohnson@stcc.edu.

Flu vaccine deadline extended for students

AGAWAM – The Massachusetts Department of Public Health had set the deadline of Dec. 31, 2020, for remote and in-person students to receive a flu vaccination unless they have obtained a medical or religious exemption. The deadline has been extended through Feb. 28, 2021. Learn more about the flu vaccine, view videos and resources.



The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts was on display in an interview conducted by State Sen. Eric Lesser. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lesser highlights Women's Fund

Livestream highlights the pandemic's impact on gender equity

LONGMEADOW – Last week, Senator Eric P. Lesser was joined by Donna Haghighat, CEO of the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, for a Lunchtime Livestream on gender-equitable recovery. The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts has been raising funds directed towards social impact for 27 years, and has so far raised over \$2.5 million for more than 150 nonprofit organizations. The video from the livestream can be accessed on Facebook and Twitter.

Senator Lesser and Haghighat first spoke on the disproportionate effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women in the labor force. For Haghighat, the pandemic's effects have set back the slowly-increasing trend of women in the labor force. "We have done a research report in 2019 on the status of women and girls in the four [Western Massachusetts] counties, and we had seen already in Hampden County that only 73% of women were in the labor force. The unemployment rate was 7%," she explained. "We now know that COVID has really increased both of those numbers be-

cause women have been disproportionately in the low-wage sectors of our economy: the restaurants, the nail salons, the day care centers, the non-essential hospital workers. That should get more attention to recategorize how we frame who is exposed and who isn't." She also made mention of the pay gap forcing child-care decisions.

Haghighat also discussed what would be legislatively necessary in order to better serve women in pandemic recovery. She also referenced the Institute for Women's Policy Research's new report and the recent coining of the term "shecession", an economic downturn that disproportionately affects income for women. "A shecession should take a 'she-covery', instead of a recovery," Haghighat said. "I think if we center women when we're figuring out how to reorganize, we'll need to look at things like a national child care system and, absent that, a state-wide system of support. We need to figure out our social safety nets so when things like this happen, we are accounting for folks who are forced to self-select out of the labor force. They're not looking for paid employment right now, but they should still be taken care of economically because they are doing the work society didn't figure out how to do."

Jourdain replaced on Board of Trustees

HOLYOKE – Gov. Charlie Baker has replaced former City Council President Kevin Jourdain with a new chair for the Holyoke Soldiers' Home Board of Trustees.

Jourdain was the chairman of the board during the past year when the home went through so much strife with nearly 80 deaths and dozens more sick leading to the ouster of Superintendent Bennett Walsh.

Baker replaced Jourdain with Major General Gary Keefe, believing Keefe would be in a better position to help gain federal funding for a new facility.

"His reason was he felt Gary as head of the National Guard would have a better

Washington presence to get us the federal money for the new home since he is down there all the time," Jourdain said.

Jourdain said Baker called him personally with the news and thanked him for his service as chair.

Keefe joined the Board of Trustees in November. He is the adjutant general for the Massachusetts National Guard.

It is not clear if Jourdain is remaining on the Board of Trustees as a regular member.

The state wants to build a \$300 million facility and will need federal funds to help with the construction.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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SPORTS

WINTER SPORTS

Current restrictions could severely limit fans at winter sports

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Depending on a town's individual situation, winter schedules have begun formulating in high school boys and girls basketball, swimming, and boys and girls ice hockey.

One thing various schools will be navigating very carefully or not at all is the ability to have fans in high school gymnasiums.

Due to the space confines and the need to keep students in smaller groups, it is almost certain there will be no fans at swim

meets, but there could be fans at some high school gymnasiums and possibly at ice hockey rinks.

However, under the current restrictions by Gov. Charlie Baker, it may not be possible.

During the fall season, the indoor gathering size got as large as 50 people during the most advance phase of the governor's re-opening plan. But with thousands and thousands of new cases each day coming off the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, Baker has shrunk the maximum gathering size indoors to just 10 people.

While schools were exempted

or had orders modified, it is not clear, according to the Massachusetts website, how it will apply to fans at high school games. Baker did say at a press conference last week that the 10 or less guideline did not apply to schools with data showing that school could take place safely.

During the fall season, only girls volleyball was held indoors. A few schools did allow just one or two fans per home team player to be in the gymnasium and social distancing and face coverings were required at all times while indoors.

Outdoors, most schools al-

lowed home fans up to a certain number or issued two or three passes to players and only those with passes were allowed inside venues. A few schools, citing a lack of ability to control the crowds, were forced to bar fans completely in order to allow games to be played.

Holyoke was the first school to be forced to shut down sports due to COVID-related issues. Chicopee, Ludlow, and Wilbraham also experienced similar shutdowns.

Ice hockey is scheduled to begin as well, with arenas including Fitzpatrick, Olympia Ice Cen-

ter, and Smead hosting a limited number of games. There are only 40 players allowed to participate in games, and it is unclear how many people the arenas will allow to attend games, especially with teams sharing home ice.

Fans should check with their child's individual schools in order to find out what rules will be in place for fans.

Playing of games could take place around Jan. 21 and about 10 to 12 contests are planned for basketball and hockey. There will be no tournaments for winter season sports.

SPRING SPORTS

Counting app 'pitched' to baseball committee

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – While some sports are struggling to be able to just take place, there is hope that spring sports like softball, lacrosse, and baseball will be able to have somewhat of a normal season.

With that discussion, the Baseball Committee of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association has begun further discussions about the uniform record-keeping of pitching.

A couple of years ago, the MIAA agreed to institute pitch counts in high school baseball.

One of the most glaring changes high school coaches will have to deal with is a pitch count, which would require a pitcher to come out of a game once he reaches 115 pitches, and then require at least four days of rest before that individual can pitch again. There are other rest requirements for smaller numbers of pitches.

For South Hadley High School coach Matt Foley, he wonders how the pitch count rule is going to be enforced.

"The MIAA is going to need a system of reporting," said Foley. "But the two sides are going need to agree on pitch counts during the game."

Teams will need to have individuals be responsible for keeping accurate pitch count, and new South Hadley Athletic Director Eric Castonguay says there is supposed to be an online reporting system for pitch counts through the MIAA.

SPRING | page 6



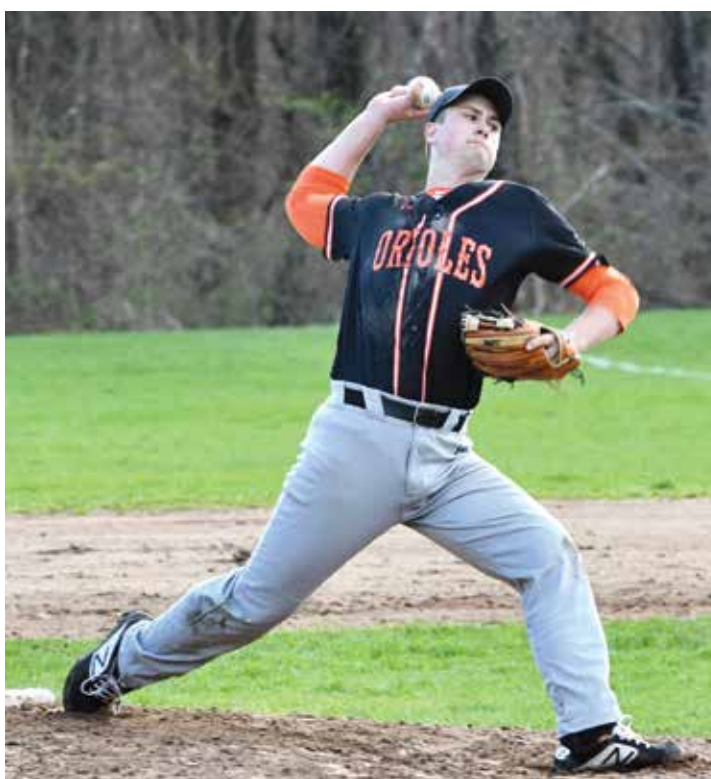
Smaller schools like Monson could struggle with pitch-counting due to a smaller pool of players to choose from. FILE PHOTOS



American Legion teams utilized pitch counts in the 2019 summer season.



Pitch counts will be instituted in the 2021 high school season, requiring mandatory rest for pitchers between appearances.



An app called Change Up could be a solution for easy tracking of pitch counts, providing a database for all high school teams to utilize.

RACING

Granite series adds trip to New London

WALPOLE, N.H. -- Granite State Pro Stock Series officials announced on Saturday a trip to New London-Waterford Speedbowl has been set for Saturday, July 24. The race was originally listed as a TBA on the schedule, announced on Dec. 10, but has now been sealed up.

The New London-Waterford event is part of a 15-race announced slate for the New Hampshire based touring series for the new calendar year. The .375-mile asphalt oval, located in Waterford, Connecticut, will mark the second stop in the nutmeg state, as the first will come in the season-opener as part of the NAPA Spring Sizzler at Stafford Motor Speedway on April 24.

The New London-Waterford race will help begin the second half of the season in the hunt to crown a champion.

"Adding this date at Waterford truly gives our schedule a mix of everything for 2021," Mike Parks, president of the Granite State Pro Stock Series, said. "Waterford has become one of the tracks that always brings out the top Pro Stock talent. We're looking forward to heading back to Connecticut."

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, GSPSS teams competed at New London-Waterford twice in 2020. Joey Pole was crowned the champion in October -- scoring a victory in the process -- while Seekonk Speedway regular David Darling dominated the September event en route to Victory Lane.

For more information on the Granite State Pro Stock Series, visit the series on the web at gspss.net or follow on social media via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Sports

New umpires needed for 2021 season

REGION – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpire Association is looking for individuals who are interested in umpiring baseball at the high school and youth level. The WMBUA services high school baseball and various other leagues in the Greater Springfield area/ Hampden County.

The WMBUA's first year members class will be held for roughly five to six weeks, beginning in February. The class dates right now are fluid as the organization monitors what happens with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Class is usually one or two nights per week from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The class takes place in the First Baptist Church of East Longmeadow's classrooms at 50 Parker Street. Classes may also be virtual if COVID-19 does not allow for in-person meetings.

If you are interested in taking the classes, contact Chris Meffen, the WMBUA Secretary, via email at cmeffen8017@gmail.com or visit the WMBUA website at <http://wmbua.org>.

Pioneers to host Pelham clinic

LUDLOW – Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham, MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The fall clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. There are two sessions available, sign up for one or both. It makes a great holiday gift for friends and family members.

This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65 per session (\$130 for 2 sessions). Sessions will consist of a max of 15 players per field (COVID regulation for the players' safety).

SESSION 1: MONDAYS 1/25, 2/1, and 2/8

Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.

Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

SESSION 2: MONDAYS 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, and 3/15

Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.

Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

Sign-ups now available for 2021 Relics softball



The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmassrelics.org>. SUBMITTED PHOTO

SPRING ■ from page 8

"Pitch counts are supposed to go to Athletic Directors, who will place them online," Castonguay said not long after the rule was passed.

At a recent Baseball Committee meeting, Change Up, a phone app, was presented to committee members and is an official "PitchSmart" USA Baseball-certified application.

The app itself is very simple. It provides a comprehensive tracking of a player's pitching activity across a season.

One huge benefit is that it has automated reporting to a database for the National Federation of High Schools. The MIAA recently adopted NFHS rules in nearly all sports, including baseball. While the app supposedly provides analytics in regards to safety, durability, and effectiveness of a given pitcher, it's most important factor for high school teams is the ability to document pitch counts and provide access for all teams to access any team's current pitch status.

While it is very unlikely a high school coach will be concerned with the analytics portion of an athlete's pitching performances, it will help them determine which pitchers can be used and for how long in a given game. It will also allow for pitching planning to take place, especially for a team that may have three to four games in a given week.

The pitch counting rule is supposed to be in full effect in 2021 whenever the season begins. The app is utilized in many states, including most of the Northeast.

If the MIAA reaches a deal for the app, it would address the concerns of Foley and many other high school coaches.

There is still some criticism over how the rule could hamper smaller schools in Division 4, potentially crippling programs and crippling developmental programs like junior varsity as high school coaches could be forced to use extra pitchers from junior varsity teams to meet the pitch count requirements.

American Legion teams in Western Massachusetts utilized pitch counts in the 2019. Pitch counts were agreed to by both teams during games and tracked via the Legion's website.

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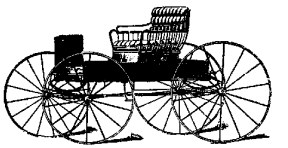
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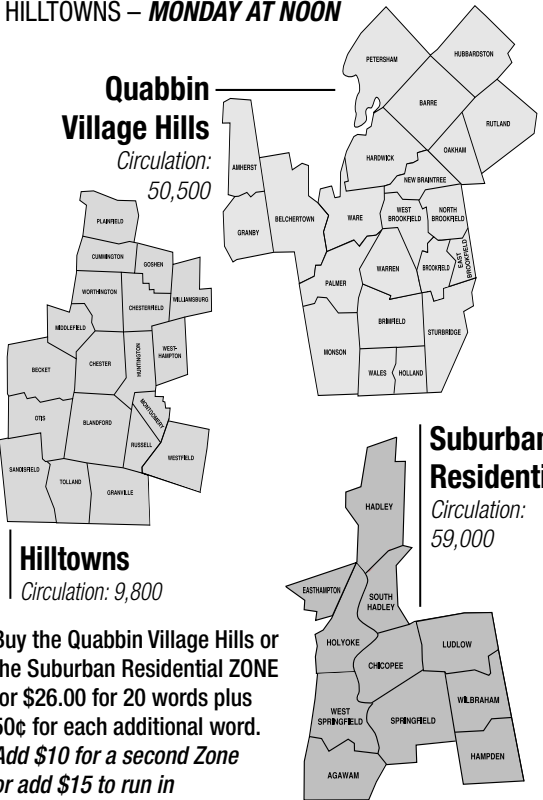
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Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
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Docket No. HD20P2170EA
Estate of:
Mary E Begley-Donahoe
Date of Death: 11/09/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will** has been filed by **Stanley A Szlachetka** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Stanley A Szlachetka** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court

before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/29/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 29, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
01/14/2021

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF AGAWAM PLANNING BOARD

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM** to hear the petition of Agawam Mayor William P. Sapelli on a proposed Zoning Amendment to Chapter 180 Section 2 and Chapter 180 Section 8 entitled "Fences". Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting will be held remotely through Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83405732504?pwd=VmIsQmF2a3hDempJRlJlY3dzdEc4dz09>

Webinar ID: 834 0573 2504

Passcode: 009513.

Copies of the proposal can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office at pkerr@agawam.ma.us

BY ORDER OF:
Mark R. Paleologopoulos,
Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
10/7, 1/14/21

Notice of Private Sale

Notice is hereby given by USA Towing, 71 Garden St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, sale of a motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that on February 04, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., at USA Towing, said

motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and costs of sale.

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01/14, 01/21, 01/28/2021

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Auditorium at the Agawam

Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Agawam Mayor William Sapelli on a zoning amendment to Chapter 180 of the Code of the Town of Agawam (TOR-2020-9).

Any member wishing to provide testimony during the Public Hearing on TOR-2020-9 may do so by dialing 1-978-990-5187 and using access code 8476635 followed by # sign. Calls must be made at 7:05pm to provide testimony. If you plan to testify at this Public Hearing please email Barbara Bard at bbard@agawam.ma.us before 5:00pm to register. This **remote** public hearing will be live-

streamed on the Town of Agawam's website at www.agawam.ma.us and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15. TOR-2020-9 is available for public inspection by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us

BY ORDER OF:

Christopher C. Johnson
City Council President
01/14, 01/21/2021

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

How to submit legal notices

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393, ext. 216.

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Parade, road race cancelled for second straight year



The Annual St. Patrick's Road Race has been cancelled. It is also the second straight year the event will not happen.

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – For the second consecutive year, the Holyoke St. Patrick's Committee has cancelled two annual events that are both huge culture and economic boosting events for the city and the surrounding area.

Thanks to a continuing surge and the need for more time to administer the vaccine for COVID-19, the St. Patrick's Committee has voted to cancel both the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race and the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The road race and parade were cancelled last year as the pandemic first started last March and much of the state had to be essentially locked down. The two events were cancelled as large scale events were no longer safe to have.

According to a press release from the committee, "since the cancellation of the 69th Annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade last March, Officers of the Committee have had numerous conversations with city health and public safety officials. All were hopeful that the COVID-19 health pandemic would have subsided, and it would be safe to gather in large numbers again. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Although some have been able to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine, it is not yet widely distributed enough. The health and safety of first responders, parade spectators and parade participants are our primary concern."

The committee then voted on Monday to suspend parade and race activities, thus cancelling the parade and race.

"In observance of the public health circumstances, the Parade Committee voted at its Jan. 3 virtual meeting to 'suspend all



The 10K course has been a longtime tradition held the day before the parade.

in-person Parade activities through the end of March 2021.' As a result of this vote, the 2020-2021 Parade will be postponed until 2022."

Parade President Marc Joyce said the decision was very difficult, and parade organizers waited as long as possible before making the tough decision to cancel the parade.

"This was not an easy decision to make", said Marc Joyce, 2020-2021 Parade President. "We understand that many will be saddened, but we need to do what is best for our community. We will march again, and we will have much to celebrate over homecoming weekend in 2022.

"I would like to sincerely thank the many people who have contacted us over the past year. The Committee is comprised of 200+ members who work all year-long to put on, what we believe, is the best St. Patrick's Parade in the country. I would like to thank all of them for their efforts in helping to carry-out this celebrated tradition. The Committee would also like to acknowledge the City of Holyoke and our many sponsors, without whose assistance and cooperation the Parade would not be possible year-after-year."

The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke will "hold-over" the 2020 Award Recipients and Colleens in order to celebrate them on March 20, 2022 at the 69th Annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade. Current Parade Committee Officers and members of the Board of Directors, as presently constituted, will continue in the same capacities through the 2021-2022 Parade Season.

The Hartford St. Patrick's Parade was cancelled a couple of months ago, but Holyoke officials balked at following suit, hoping a parade was still feasible.



The commentary team for the parade will once again sit out.



The Colleen float will not travel through the streets of Holyoke again this year. The Holyoke St. Patrick's Day parade was cancelled for 2021.



The bagpiping will not be heard in 2021. Officials are hopeful for a parade in 2022.



The Holyoke High School band performs in a previous parade.